

From: Chris Lee
To: Microsoft ATR,antitrust@usdoj.gov@inetgw
Date: 11/6/01 9:54am
Subject: DOJ SELLS OUT to MicroSUCK!

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CC: ASKDOJ,American Atr

Hey DOJ IDIOTS (or GeoW clones)!

WHO ARE YOU FOLKS WORKING FOR...THE PEOPLE OR Microsoft (THE ILLEGAL MONOPOLY)???? There's something terrible happening in the DOJ and it has to do w/GeoW's POLITICAL APPOINTEES!!!

Chris

November 6, 2001

U.S. and Some States Split on Microsoft, Risking New Delay

By STEPHEN LABATON with STEVE LOHR

ASHINGTON, Nov. 5 The 18 states involved in the Microsoft (news/quote) antitrust case appeared headed for a sharp split today, with one group of attorneys general planning to sign onto the proposed settlement between the software giant and the Bush administration and another group preparing to challenge it, saying it leaves loopholes that would undermine provisions intended to promote competition.

After three days of intensive deliberations, only one state attorney general, Thomas F. Reilly of Massachusetts, officially announced his position. He said Massachusetts would seek to block the deal, concluding that it "may prove to be more harmful than helpful to competition and consumers."

Officials of other states skeptical of the agreement, which included Connecticut and California, spent the afternoon in a late-stage effort to persuade Microsoft and the Justice Department to reopen the proposed settlement to eliminate a variety of ambiguities and provisions that the states viewed as too lenient, lawyers involved in the negotiations said.

The attorney general of Illinois, Jim Ryan, suggested he would support the agreement, while the attorney general of New York, Eliot L. Spitzer, postponed a planned announcement of his endorsement after his efforts to strike a separate deal with Microsoft collapsed, the lawyers said.

The failure of the Justice Department to gain the endorsement of all 18 states throws the proposed consent decree into question and creates a situation that antitrust experts said is without legal precedent. At the least, the disapproval by some states is likely to delay the resolution of the case for many months.

Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly of United States District Court in Washington has instructed the parties to outline their positions at a hearing here on Tuesday morning. She has suggested that she may conduct parallel proceedings to consider both the merits of the proposed consent decree and the objections raised by officials of some of the states. Her original schedule suggested that she would not decide what to do before late next spring at the earliest.

Career officials at the Justice Department who have spent years working on the antitrust suit were